

stalked. In *A. pinnatifidum* × *trudellii* the pinnae are definitely oblong and have stalks of intermediate length. In addition, there are more free pinnae than in *A. trudellii*, and the pinnae are more distant than those of either parent.

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The Correct Name of a Common Tropical American Oleandra

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One of the commonest and most widespread Oleandras of the American tropics was long known as *Oleandra nodosa* (Willd.) Presl. When Dr. William R. Maxon (1914, pp. 392–398) published a revision of the American species of *Oleandra*, he used the name *O. articulata* (Swartz) Presl¹ for the species previously known as *O. nodosa*. This was a most confusing change, for *O. articulata* had previously been applied to a common species of tropical Africa and the Mascarene Islands. The basis of this name was *Aspidium articulatum* Swartz.² Dr. Maxon decided that because Swartz did not cite any specimen but only plate 136 of Plumier's "Tractatus de Filicibus Americanis," he was in fact basing his new species solely on this illustration. This agrees with some of Maxon's other typifications of Swartz' species that Maxon thought were based on the cited illustrations of Plumier, Sloane, or others. But these typifications are incorrect, including the typification of *Aspidium articulatum* Swartz, which is based on a specimen from the Mascarene Islands. Thus the name *Oleandra articulata* should be restored for the African plant and not used for the American species.

In Schrader's Journal of Botany (1801) Swartz gave brief diagnoses of many new species without citing any specimens. In

¹ Tent. Pterid. 78. 1836.

² J. Bot. Schrad. 1800(2): 30. 1801.

order to decide the types of these species it is necessary to go to Swartz' "Synopsis Filicum" (1806), where the 1801 diagnoses are repeated but with amplified descriptions and citation of specimens. One has to decide by consultation with Swartz' herbarium at Stockholm which of these specimens he had seen and which were cited from the literature. Naturally, the lectotypes must be specimens that Swartz saw and not literature citations.

Carl Christensen (1910) made a special study of the ferns of the Swartz Herbarium and discussed the typification of many species of Swartz. He made the statement (p. 5, translated):

"Swartz certainly did not base the new species in his *Synopsis Filicum* on the illustrations of older workers, as did Linné and later Willdenow and others to a great extent. If he cited Sloane, Plumier, Plukenet or others under his species it is certainly always because he believed that his plant corresponded with the cited plate. It is therefore wrong to take up the cited figures as the types of Swartz' species. The type is a specimen, which in most cases is to be found in the Swartz Herbarium."

This statement is of great importance for the typification of *Aspidium articulatum* Swartz.

Since Swartz apparently did not base new species solely on Plumier illustrations, then he must have had a specimen, and there is in fact a specimen in the Swartz Herbarium with the name *Aspidium articulatum* on it apparently in Swartz' own hand. This specimen is from the "Insula Franciae," i.e., Mauritius, collected by Commerson. In the "Synopsis Filicum" Swartz cited the Plumier illustration and "Insula Franciae." Dr. Maxon quotes Lindman as saying that there is no evidence that Swartz had this specimen in hand in 1801, but on the other hand there is no evidence that he did not. It is true that this specimen now has no rhizome, and Swartz described the rhizome. The rhizome could have been lost during the passage of a century, or more likely Swartz drew his description of the rhizome from the Plumier illustration. In the description of the fronds Swartz (1806, p. 236) corrected the original "ellipticis" to "lanceolatis."

That Swartz had a specimen from Mauritius which he identified with a Plumier illustration of a plant from Martinique is not

strange. Such a distribution would not have seemed unlikely to Swartz, for in his time many plants from the Mascarene Islands were also attributed to the West Indies. The description was drawn apparently from both the plant and the illustration cited. Specimens can almost always be accurately identified by careful study, but Plumier illustrations seldom if ever can, except by inference from the localities and the generalized descriptions and drawings. In such a case the actual specimen should be chosen as lectotype. I have not seen this type specimen in Stockholm, but I have seen two fine isotypes in the herbarium in Copenhagen. These were received from Jussieu and bear the name *Polypodium articulatum* Juss., which is based on *Aspidium articulatum* Swartz.

Therefore, the name *Oleandra articulata* (Swartz) Presl should be used again for the plant of Mauritius, Réunion, the Seychelles, and tropical Africa, a synonym being *O. distenta* Kunze. Additional synonymy is given by Alston (1959, p. 52). The tropical American species that has been called *O. articulata* in recent years should again be called *O. nodosa* (Willd.) Presl. Its basionym, *Aspidium nodosum* Willd., was based wholly on *plate 136* of Plumier's "Tractatus," the same plate cited by Swartz.

A variety recognizable by its ciliate, glandular-surfaced fronds is:

OLEANDRA ARTICULATA (Swartz) Presl var. **annetii** (Tardieu)
Morton, comb. nov.

Oleandra annetii Tardieu, Notul. Syst. 14: 332. 1952. TYPE: Mont Finde, Cameroun, *Annet 332* (P).

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